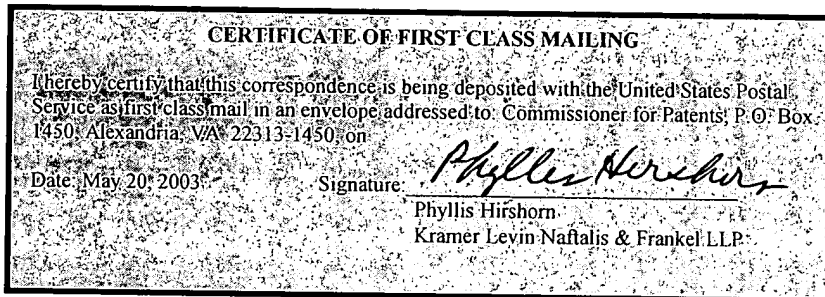


MAY 22 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of: Friend, et al.
Serial No: 09/882,464
Filed: June 14, 2001
For: MULTILAYERED POLYMERIC STRUCTURE
Group Art Unit: 1175
Examiner: Tsoy, E.

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of November 20, 2002, restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-11, 23-27 and 28, drawn to a multilayered polymeric structure for protecting electronic components, classified in class 428, subclass 411.1.
- II. Claims 12-22, drawn to a process for making a multilayered polymeric structure for protecting electronic components, classified in class 427, subclass 407.1.

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the Group I claims, namely claims 12-22, drawn to a process for making a multilayered polymeric structure for protecting electronic components, for prosecution on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be favorably reconsidered and withdrawn. In view of the fact that the present claims are all related to the same subject matter, it is submitted that a search of the prior art when examining the elected claims of Group II would, at the same time, result in a search of the prior art when examining the remaining claims of Group I. It would seem, then, that to require the filing of a separate divisional application directed to the Group I claims would result in the very same search being repeated, but at a later date. It is submitted that this duplicate search would be quite inefficient to the operation of the Patent and Trademark Office.

Therefore, since a single search can be performed for all Groups of claims without any significant burden on the Patent Office, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned regarding this Response or about any other issue.

The one month time for filing a Response is December 20, 2002. Applicants have concurrently filed a Petition For Five Months Extension Of Time to extend the time for filing a response to May 20, 2003. Hence, this Response is timely filed and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Dated: May 20, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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